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LOUISIANA IRISES

JAN 10 1947 ★

U S Department of Agriculture

FOLIOSA (Mackenzie and Bush 1902) Deep violet purple. Zigzag stemmed _____ 25.

FULVA (John Bellenden Kerr 1812) Color is brick or copper red. It has
no crest. 30 inch _____ .25

YAZOO (T. A. Washington 1932) Greyish mauve. 2 feet _____ 4.00

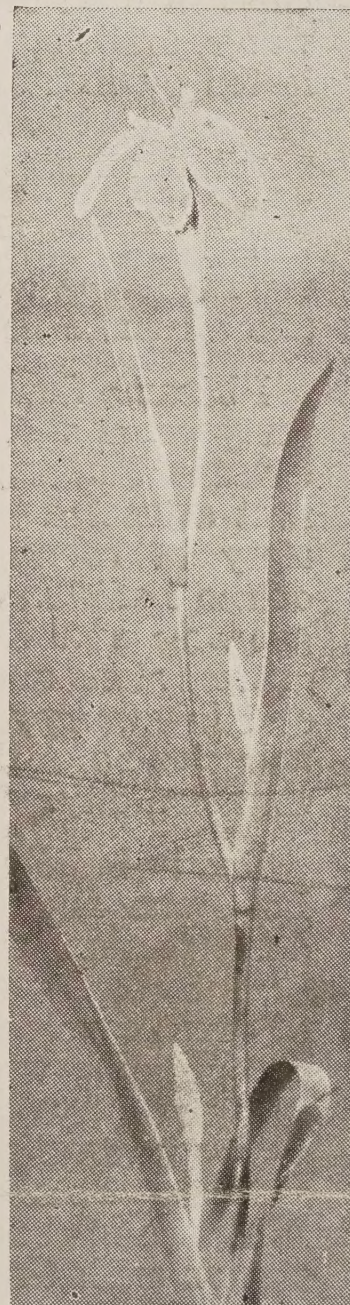
VINICOLOR (Dr. Small 1925) One of the most beautiful of its beautiful
race and the first new Iris discovered to be named by Dr. Small.
Color is dark wine purple. 42 inches _____ .50ELIZABETH WASHINGTON (T. A. Washington 1931) Bright blue large
flower. Honorable mention American Iris Society 1933. 32 inches _____ 2.00FULVALA (Dr. William Rickatson Dykes 1910)
Burgundy wine tone _____ .35GIGANTICAERULEA (Dr. John Kunkel Small 1929)
Best of the deep blues and giant of the Louisiana Irises.
It is one of the tallest Iris known. 6 feet. _____ .50CACIQUE (Dr. Stillman Berry 1925) A savannahrum and
fulva hybrid. Flowers brilliant purple. _____ 1.00REBECCA WASHINGTON (T. A. Washington 1931)
Dark pink _____ 3.00KILDEA (Dr. Frank F. Williams) A rare and beautiful
Iris. Flowers jersey cream yellow. 36 inches _____ 3.00DOROTHEA K. WILLIAMSON (Edward B. Williamson
1918) A fulva and foliosa hybrid. Flowers rich
purple. 34 inches _____ 50MISSISSIPPENSIS (Edward J. Alexander) Blue-violet
network over white background. 10 inches _____ .50CHRYSOPHOENICA ALBA (Dr. J. K. Small 1929)
Large white flower with yellow crest. 40 inches _____ 1.50VIRGINICA Bright lavender flowers. Narrow leaves
flushed with purple below _____ .35EVANGELINE Lemon yellow, quite unusual and
thrilling to grow _____ 2.50

LA-DIGGE Purple-lavender _____ 35

QUEEN MARIE LAVEAU (Abbeville Type) Rose-pink 1.00

LA LOUISIANE Mauve-buff blend. A worthy addition. 50 in. .35

CRPRESS ISLAND Petunia-violet zigzag stemmed _____ 1.00

EDWARD J. ALEXANDER Rich mahogany red. One of
the most beautiful of the Abbeville type _____ 1.50BONNE-NOUVELLE Blue and white streak through
center of sepal. Very late bloomer. Foliosa type _____ .35

THE LOUISIANA WILD IRIS

CHARLES VICTOR KRAFT

If a lazy lover of plants asked us to name a flower as exquisitely delicate as an orchid, as beautiful as a rose, and yet one which withstands extremes of heat and cold, which flourishes in high or low land, or in water, and one which is not molested by insects or disease, we would not have to smile and shake our heads in despair. We would not even have to stop and think. The answer would be in the Louisiana Wild Iris. It alone fills all these requirements.

I became flower minded about forty years ago. It was in New Orleans that my attention was first attracted by the great variety of colors in the blooms of the Louisiana wild iris found growing and blooming in the gutters along unimproved streets and in swampy places in the suburbs of this interesting southern city.

Road building in southern Louisiana and throughout this delta section, the improvement of our streets, and the digging of great canals for the drainage of our land, were the principal factors destroying these wonderfully interesting plants that grew despite any other obstacle. Alleys and undrained gutters strewn with tin cans and other

rubbish lost their ugliness in the early spring as these beautiful irises, capped with colorful blooms, shot their graceful spikes through the debris.

Because these plants were so numerous and so accessible, they were not generally planted in the lovely gardens of old New Orleans. But, conditions have changed; the march of progress has threatened their perpetuation and in doing so has increased their popularity.

It has been suggested by botanists and floraculturists that some one in the immediate vicinity of New Orleans devote his time and grounds to saving as many of the different varieties as possible. We have accepted this suggestion and are now engaged in gathering, selecting, and propagating these wonderful plants.

Those who are interested in the habits and requirements of our native iris, may be better served by anticipating their questions.

Iris may be taken from their original location any time of the year, but the best time is in July or August when they are dormant. If they are transplanted after September, they will

not bloom the following spring, unless a large ball of earth is taken with each clump. They should be planted eight inches apart. The rhizome (or root) should not be planted too deep; in fact, the top should be barely covered with soil. The same condition should apply when planting in soil under water.

The soil must be acid and very rich in food value to get best results. Aluminum sulphate, about a pound to a square yard, will be sufficient. A complete plant food with a neutral reaction may be used very liberally as a food. A four inch pot full, with an equal amount of cotton seed meal, is recommended for every twelve square feet of surface. It should be applied early in the spring, not later than the last of March.

In a survey of the Louisiana Wild Iris, the curator of the New York Botanical Garden, the late Dr. John K. Small, found more than two hundred different shades of the blue, red, and purple in the vicinity of New Orleans.

If you are a lover of the iris, and if you like to produce new shades, you should try your hand at pollination.

New colors or shades may be produced during the blooming seasons by taking the pollen "dust of the bloom"—from the stamens (the male organ) and transferring it to the ovula (female organs) by means of a fine camel's hair brush. The result-

ing seed, when planted, will give you a shade between the two colors you have pollinated. These new seedlings will not bloom until their second year. You will find this experiment very interesting, educational, and in most cases successful.

They are successfully grown as far north as Canada, but in these cold regions they should be planted in very rich soil, and heavily mulched during the winter. The New York Botanical Garden has a plantation of these irises of which they are very proud.

So whether your land is low or high, your climate hot or cold, with practically no work on your part, you may grow flowers with all of the delicacy of the orchid and all the beauty of the rose.





EVANGELINE (from a painting)

In the background is the Historical Eyangeline Oak, on Bayou Teche, America's most famous tree, the spot where Evangeline met Gabriel (Louis Arceneaux) and where the exiled Acadians landed in 1765. At right is the St. Martin Catholic Church, founded in 1765. It contains the oil painting of St. Martin of Tours, an artistic masterpiece, and the Grotto of Lourdes, a reproduction of the famous Shrine in France. Near the left wing of the Church lies the Remains of Evangeline (Emmeline Labiche), her statue is over her grave. In the foreground is a clump of Wild Iris (Iris Fulva) in bloom.

8 X 10 Photo reproduction of
painting 50¢ Prepaid

ETHEL Apricot color. It grows and blooms well	_____	.50
Collection of 10 assorted unlabeled irises	_____	1.00
Collection of 50 assorted unlabeled irises	_____	4.00
AFRICAN IRIS (Moraeas) Have a creeping rootstock (Rhizomes). Flower stems are perennial. Makes a nice tub plant for the North	_____	.50
BUTTERFLY IRIS (Spuria) Ivory-white flowers with yellow patch on the falls. Have evergreen foliage	_____	.35
WALKING IRIS (Marcia Gracilis) An Iris from South America. They have narrow evergreen leaves and the flowers are produced from flower stalks that are like the leaves	_____	.50
CRESTED IRIS (Iris Cristata) Eastern native. Likes shade. Flowers of soft blue and gold. 6 inches	_____	6 for 1.00
WATER IRIS (Iris Pseudacorus) A tall flowering water iris from England, excellent for naturalizing around pools	_____	.25
VESPER IRIS (Iris Dichotoma) Blooms in August. In the late afternoon.	_____	.20 or 6 for 1.00
BEARDED IRIS (Assorted Colors)	_____	.10

EDMOND RIGGS

St. Martinville, La.